

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-07 COA-02 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 TRSE-00 DOTE-00

IO-14 DRC-01 FMC-04 /129 W
----- 087521

R 230700Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3475

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN EFIS JA CH

SUBJ: SINO-JAPANESE SHIPPING AND FISHERIES TALKS

REF: PEKING 1224

SUMMARY: CURRENT SINO-JAPANESE SHIPPING TALKS ARE EXPERIENCING SOME DIFFICULTIES, BUT BOTH FOREIGN OFFICE AND MIN OF TRANSPORT EXPECT TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT BY LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST. FISHERIES TALKS RECESSED JUNE 20 ARE NOT EXPECTED RESUME FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF REP, OGURA, DEPDIR CHINA DIV, TOLD EMBOFF THAT SHIPPING TAKS, WHICH BEGAN IN TOKYO JULY 8, ARE IN SOME DIFFICULTY. HE STATED THAT MAJOR CURRENT PROBLEM INVOLVES GRANTING OF MOST FAVORED NATION RIGHTS TO PRC. GRANTING MFN BY GOJ WOULD RESULT IN PRC SHIPPING BEING TREATED IN SAME MANNER AS JAPAESE SHIPPING IN JAPANESE PORTS. CHINESE NEGOTIATORS HAVE REQUESTED MFN RIGHTS, BUT ARE UNWILLING TO EXTEND SAME RIGHTS TO JAPANESE
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SHIPS CALLING AT PRC PORTS. OGURA STATED THAT PRC REPS

HAVE ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF TAIWAN FLAG CARRIERS SHARING PORTS WITH PRC SHIPS, BUT ADDED THAT FONOFF UNSURE AT THIS TIME HOW FAR PRC WILL PUSH ISSUE, SINCE COMMON PORTING OF TAIWAN AND PRC SHIPPING IS STANDARD PATTERN THROUGHOUT WORLD. HE SUGGESTED THAT TAIWAN ISSUE MAY HAVE BEEN RAISED FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT TALKS WOULD BE CONCLUDED BY END OF JULY.

2. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (MOT) REP, CHOJI TOMITA, DIRECTOR, OVERSEAS DIV, SHIPPING VUREAU, WHO IS PARTICIPANT IN SHIPPING TALKS, TOLD EMBOFF THAT MOT BELIEVES THAT PRC IS NOT TAKING HARD LINE ON TAIWAN ISSUE. HE NOTED THAT, IN MOT VIEW, PRC IS MORE INTERESTED IN SHIPPING AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME THAN IS JAPAN. HE SUPPORTED THIS VIEW BY OBSERVING THAT JAPANESE SHIPS HAVE CALLED AT PRC PORTS AND PRC SHIPS HAVE CALLED AT JAPANESE PORTS FOR PAST TWENTY YEARS WITHOUT A SHIPPING AGREEMENT AND SAID THERE IS NO REASON WHY THIS SITUATION CANNOT CONTINUE SHOULD THE TWO SIDES FAIL TO AGREE DURING CURRENT TALKS. HE SAID MOT IS VERY RELAXED AT THIS POINT. HE ADDED THAT HE IS SCHEDULED TO GO TO GENEVA AT THE END OF JULY, BUT MIGHT HAVE TO CANCEL HIS PLANS IF TALKS WITH PRC GO BEYOND THAT POINT IN TIME.

3. OGURA ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FISHERIES TALKS, RECESSED IN PEKING ON JUNE 20, WILL PROBABLY NOT RECONVENE BEFORE ABOUT THREE MONTHS. HE SAID THIS AMOUNT OF TIME WILL BE REQUIRED TO GAIN SUPPORT OF JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY FOR SOME OF PRC PROPOSALS.

4. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT GOJ IS ALSO TROUBLED BY PRC DESIRE TO INCORPORATE INTO JAPAN-PRC AGREEMENT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF PREVIOUS AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY AND PRC. THESE ASPECTS INCLUDE CLOSED ZONE FOR MILITARY PURPOSES AND DETAILED REQUIREMENTS FOR JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS FISHING WITHIN PRC WATERS. AT LAST REPORT GOJ WAS UNWILLING INCORPORATE SUCH ITEMS IN FORMAL AGREEMENT. AS WITH SHIPPING AGREEMENT, GOJ AWARE THAT FISHING HAS GONE ON IN PAST WITHOUT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT AND APPEARS TO BE TAKING RELAXED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIEW ON URGENCY OF REACHING AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME.

5. COMMENT: UNLIKE CIVIL AVIATION ISSUE WHICH BECAME CAUSE CELEGRE, CURRENT TALKS ON SHIPPING AND FISHING ATTRACTING LITTLE PUBLIC INTEREST. OUT OF THE HOT GLARE OF PUBLICITY AND POLITICAL PRESSURE, GOJ APPEARS TO BE TAKING MUCH MORE TRADITIONAL APPROACH TO PRC AND HOLDING LINE ON ISSUES UNDER DEBATE.

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